



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
*Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERIOR COURT RECEIVES GRANT FROM VENTURA COUNTY MEDICAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION

The Ventura Superior Court's Dependency Drug Court has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$28,200 by the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation. The funding will be used to provide residential substance abuse treatment for mothers participating in the program.

Dependency Drug Court is designed for mothers who have given birth to newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol and/or other drugs. The voluntary program focuses on parents whose substance abuse contributes to child abuse or neglect that result in juvenile dependency proceedings. It seeks to provide the earliest possible intervention for newborns while strengthening a family's ability to care for their children in a drug-free environment.

Residential treatment consists of individual and group counseling, and family counseling, if appropriate. Other services include parenting skills, anger management, self-esteem, vocational skills, life management skills, and CalWorks supportive services. In addition to residential treatment, program participants receive close supervision and an array of social services.

Past studies indicate that approximately 10 percent of the women giving birth in Ventura County have tested positive for one or more substances during pregnancy or at the time of delivery.

Dependency Drug Court is an important part of the county's System Improvement Plan that targets children who remain with their families following an abuse referral. The oversight and services provided by Dependency Drug Court promote safe and stable home environments.

Dependency Drug Court is a collaborative effort of the Superior Court and the County of Ventura's Behavioral Health Department-Alcohol and Drug Programs, Human Services Agency, and Public Health Services. It has been in operation since November 2000.

The Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the availability and excellence of health care services for the people of Ventura County.

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